

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00840 020612Z

12
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 044523
O 020532Z FEZI74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2339
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 840

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL FEBRUARY ONE ON FONMIN
KIM, KIM TOLD HIM ROKG CONSIDERING DISPATCH OF
PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY WITH LETTER FROM PARK TO WHITLAM.
HE AGAIN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WERE GOA TO PROCEED
WITH RECOGNITION OF PYONG YANG, ROK WOULD "AT MINIMUM"
HAVE TO RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR FROM CANBERRA. AMBASSADOR TOLD
KIM HE WOULD GIVE MOFA OUR IMPRESSIONS AFTER THAT DISCUSSION.

2. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
BOURCHIER REITERATED VIEW GOA WILL QUICKLY GO THROUGH
MOTIONS OF CONTACTING EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS
AND THEN PROCEED TO NEGOTIATIONSHRITH NORTH KOREANS ON
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BOURCHIER
GAVE PERSONAL VIEW
THAT MOVE TOWARDS NORTH KOREANS MIGHT TAKE PLACE WITHIN
PERHAPS FIVE DAYS. HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT WHITLAM HAD
INSTRUCTED WILLESEE TO WRAP THIS PROBLEM UP BEFORE
WHITLAM RETURNED FROM SEA TRIP.

3. AMBASSADOR AND AMBASSADOR BOURCHIER WERE IN AGREEMENT
THAT PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY MIGHT WELL BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE
GIVEN GOA'S CURRENT ATTITUDE. RATHER BOURCHIER
SUGGESTED THAT BEST APPROACH IN ATTEMPT TO SLOW DOWN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00840 020612Z

AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION WOULD BE IF NEW ROK AMBASSADOR
RO CARRIED PERSONAL LETTER FROM PARK (KOREANS HAD
EARLIER BEEN CONSIDERING THIS.) BOURCHIER THOUGHT
THAT LETTER WOULD AT MINIMUM HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO

WHITLAM DURING HIS SEA TOUR AND ADDRESSED BY GOA BEFORE
PROCEEDING WITH INITIATIVE TOWARD NORTH KOREA.

4. ON FEBRUARY 2, WE CONVEYED TO MOFA SUBSTANCE
BOURCHIER'S COMMENTS THAT GOA MAY WELL PROCEED FAIRLY
QUICKLY TOWARDS CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREANS. ALSO
INDICATED THAT PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY MIGHT BE COUNTER
PRODUCTIVE WHILE AT SAME TIME ENDORSING BOURCHIER'S
VIEW THAT PERSONAL LETTER CARRIED BY AMBASSADOR RO
WOULD BE BETTER APPROACH. MOFA FRANKLY SURPRISED BY
POSSIBILITY THAT GOA MAY MOVE SO QUICKLY TOWARDS
NORTH KOREA. HOWEVER, MOFA TOLD US AMBASSADOR RO (WHO
ARRIVED SEOUL FEBRUARY 1) IS NOW SCHEDULED TO DEPART
FEBRUARY 3, SINCE GOA REQUESTED HE BE IN CANBERRA BY
FEBRUARY 5.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW STRONGLY EXPRESSED WARNINGS FROM
AUSTRALIANS HERE RE IMMINENCE AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE
TOWARDS NORTH, BELIEVE IT PRUDENT ON OUR PART TO MAKE
FURTHER HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND
CANBERRA URGING GOA DELAY TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR
APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATIONOVF KOREAN CASE. WE HAVE TAKEN LINE
HERE WITH AUSTRALIANS THAT GIVEN TIME TO DIGEST SITUATION,
ROKG WILL ACCEPT FACT THAT AUSTRALIAN MOVE IS INEVITABLE.
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RATIONALIZE SITUATION WOULD ALSO TEMPER
CURRENT INCLINATION TO "PUNISH" GOA BY WITHDRAWING AMBASSADOR.

6. IN ANY REPRESENTATION WE SHOULD PROTECT AUSTRALIANS
HERE.
HABIB

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, DOCUMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL00840
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-1039
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740269/abbrzbni.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PEPR, KS, KN, AS, (YANG, PYONG)
To: STATE INFO CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005